

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 02929 090828Z

10  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W  
----- 075225

R 090528Z MAY 75  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5682  
INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE  
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2929

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: AS, PFOR  
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION LEADER FRASER CONFIRMS HE HAS NO INTENTION TO  
PRESS FOR ELECTIONS

REF: CANBERRA 2683

1. IN BREAKFAST CONVERSATION IN MELBOURNE MAY 6,  
OPPOSITION LEADER MALCOLM FRASER GAVE ME HIS VIEWS ON PO-  
LITICAL PROSPECTS IN AUSTRALIA OVER NEXT FEW MONTHS.
2. HE SAID THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON FOREIGN POLICY  
(ESPECIALLY ON ADMISSION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES INTO AUSTRAL-  
IA AND OPPOSITION CHARGES THAT PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM MISLED  
THE PARLIAMENT APR 8 ON CABLES HE HAD SENT TO HANOI AND SAIGON)  
WHICH OPENS MAY 13 WOULD NOT RESULT IN ANY REJECTION OF SUP-  
PLY BILL (IE.E., APPROPRIATIONS BILL) OR OTHER MOVES TO FORCE  
IMMEDIATE NATIONAL ELECTIONS. HE THOUGHT WHITLAM WOULD MAN-  
AGE TO THROW A LOT OF DUST IN PEOPLE EYES AND DID NOT EX-  
PECT MUCH WOULD COME OUT OF THIS PARTICULAR DEBATE.
3. FRASER SAID HE PROPOSED TO SUSTAIN HIS ATTACKS ON  
LABOR GOVERNMENT IN THE MONTHS AHEAD ON BASIC FOREIGN  
POLICY AND SECURITY ISSUES, BUT HE WAS UNDER NO RPT NO  
PRESSURE FROM HIS OWN PARTY RANKS TO HAVE ELECTIONS AT  
THIS TIME. IF ELECTIONS WERE HELD TODAY, LABOR GOVERNMENT  
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WOULD PROBABLY BE OUT, BUT LIBERAL-COUNTRY PARTIES WOULD

INHERIT A RANGE OF PROFOUND ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WHICH  
WERE OF THE ALP'S MAKING. IT WAS NOW BEST TO LET THE  
GOVERNMENT STEW IN ITS OWN JUICE AND FOR THE OPPOSITION  
TO CHOOSE AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO AMKE ITS BID FOR POWER  
WHEN IT WOULD HOPE TO GAIN A STRONG WORKING MAJORITY IN  
BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.  
GREEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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